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Date: September 28, 1994
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Subject: Pollution Report for Removal Action at the Brite Metals ,
[REDACTED] site, Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

POLREL NO. 3

II. BACKGROUND:

Site No.:
Delivery Order No.: PK
Response Authority: CERCLA
CERCLA Incident Category: Site
NPL Status: None
Start Date: 04-18-94
Completion Date:

III. RESPONSE INFORMATION:

A. Situation

- o Brite Metal Salt Treating is a former metal treating facility located at 8640 Bessemer Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio. The treating process included the use of molten cyanide salts, acids and bases to harden small steel machine parts. The building, adjacent trailers and grounds contained over 80 55-gallon drums and approximately 10 vats of spent cyanide salts, acids, bases and quench oils. An on-site cyanide destruct treatment system and a collection pit are filled with cyanide contaminated liquids. Two molten cyanide salt pots were located in the facility yard and contained liquids and sludges.
- o In 1991, U.S. EPA enforcement personnel conducted an inspection of the facility and noted improperly stored wastes, including cyanides, on-site. The owner was instructed to properly handle the wastes on-site. On April 15, 1994, U.S. EPA enforcement personnel returned to the facility to find that it was no longer operational and that the situation had become dangerous.

B. Actions Taken

- o April 15 through April 28, 1994 - The responsible parties were given verbal notice and agreed to conduct an emergency stabilization and removal action. Wastes were sampled, segregated

and staged into wastestream groups. Approximately 5000 gallons of cyanide contaminated liquids were transported off-site for disposal.

- April 29 through May 9, 1994 - PRP contractors smoke tested floor drains and cleaned them with a sodium hypochlorite solution. Site stabilization and wastestream segregation continued.
- May 9, 1994 through July 26, 1994 - PRP contractors prepared a site work plan and health and safety plan for the remaining activities on site.
- July 29 through August 3, 1994 - PRP contractors completed drum inventory. All wastes were staged for disposal. Decontamination of metal containers and vats was initiated. Decontaminated metal was wipe sampled for cyanide and all clean metal was staged for transportation to a local smelter for destruction.
- August 8 through 17, 1994 - The two salt pots were dismantled and the waste was treated and disposed of at Cyanokem. Clean scrap metal was wipe sampled and recycled at a local smelter.
- August 18, 1994 - Soils under the saltpots were excavated, and placed into rolloff boxes. Extent of contamination sampling was conducted. Analytical results for the soils indicated levels of cyanide below levels of concern.
- August 22 through August 30, 1994 - Non-hazardous liquids were discharged to the public sewer with the approval of North East Ohio Regional Sewer District. Approximately 23 55-gallon drums of liquid was discharged from the site. All visibly contaminated soils were excavated and staged for disposal. The walls and the floors of the cyanide pit were steam cleaned and the liquid was pumped into a vacuum truck for disposal at Research Oil.
- September 15 through September 26, 1994 - TAT collected confirmation samples from the soils on-site and the scrapings from the floors in the warehouse. Samples were analyzed for total and reactive cyanides and TCLP metals. Sample analyses indicated that no levels of TCLP metals are present above regulatory levels. Levels of cyanide in the soils from the outside of the building were below background levels. Scrapings from the floors of the warehouse were slightly elevated, but not at levels of concern.

C. Next Steps

- Receive the validated TAT confirmation sample results and complete the final report.

D. Key Issues

- None